

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a blast-resistant panel and container to protect objects against the blast force from an explosive device. The invention consists of a first layer whose shape and/or size may be altered by the blast force without substantial release of gases therethrough, a compressible second layer, and a third layer. When absorbing a blast, the first layer moves toward the third layer thereby compressing the second layer, the second layer absorbs the blast energy, and the third layer prevents substantial displacement of the second layer. In the preferred embodiment, the first layer is constructed of overlapping plates which can slide relative to one another. In another embodiment, the first layer is constructed of axially-slidable plates, the movement of such plates being guided by guiding ribs.